

GVPT 859A/PHIL 688P/PUAF 698E
PROSEMINAR IN POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, AND PUBLIC POLICY

Fall 2006
Tuesday, 12:30-3:15 p.m.
1107 Van Munching Hall

Instructors

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CP4 RA

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Course website: Go to www.publicpolicy.umd.edu/cp4 and click on Fall 2006 Proseminar.

Electronic course reserves: Go to Course Reserves on UMD Library Catalog page. Password is gvpt859asol.

Texts

Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, *Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life* (Norton, 1991).

William Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism* (Waveland Press, 1982).

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, eds., *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty First Century*, 6th ed. (Washington: CQ Press, 2006).

Other readings will be available online (some on electronic reserves), or will be distributed in class.

Course requirements

A policy paper due December 21, roughly 6000 words.

An outline/prospectus for the paper, with a list of sources, will be due on November 7.

Each student will give a 20-minute in-class presentation based on his or her research for the policy paper. The presentations will take place on December 5 and 12.

Two short papers of approximately 2,000 words. Due October 17 and December 12. Topics to be distributed in class.

The two short papers each count for about 20 percent of the grade, the policy paper 40 percent, and the quality of class participation (including the presentation) 20 percent.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

(Readings not in the required texts are on electronic reserves unless otherwise noted.
Some changes in the syllabus are possible.)

Part I: The economic approach to public policy

1. September 5: Strategic interaction, bargaining and game theory (KS)

2. September 12: The problem of collective action (KS)

Dixit and Nalebuff, pp. 1-201.

Michael Taylor, *The Possibility of Cooperation*, chapter 1 (pp. 1-33).

3. September 19: States and markets (KS)

Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*, pp. 33-51, 76-89.

Milton Friedman, *Free to Choose*, pp. 1-29.

Part II: Ends

4. September 26: Utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis (JL and KS)

Jeremy Bentham, *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, excerpt online on course website.

Will Kymlicka, "Utilitarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, chapter 2.

Daniel Hausman and Michael McPherson, *Economic Analysis and Moral Philosophy*, chapters 6 and 8.

Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser, *A Primer for Policy Analysis*, chapter 9.

5. October 3: The capabilities approach and human development (JL)

Amartya Sen, "Capability and Well-Being," in A. Sen and M. Nussbaum, eds., *The Quality of Life*.

Martha Nussbaum, "Human Functioning and Social Justice: In Defense of Aristotelian Essentialism," *Political Theory* 20 (1992).

UNDP, Human Development Report 1990, chapter 1, at <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/1990/en/>

6. October 10: Rights and Duties I (JL)

Immanuel Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, excerpt online on course website.

Shelly Kagan, "Doing Harm," in *Normative Ethics*, pp. 70-105.

Thomas Hill, "Kantianism," in *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory*.

7. October 17: Rights and Duties II (JL)

James Nickel, "Human Rights," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rights-human/>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

European Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000): www.europarl.eu.int/charter/

Henry Shue, *Basic Rights*, chapter 2.

Charter of Rights from the proposed Kurdistan Constitution (manuscript, 2005)

Intermezzo: environmental policy

8. October 24: Policy issues: the environment (KS)

Norman Vig and Michael Kraft, eds., *Environmental Policy*, chapters 1, 9, 10, 11, 17.

9. October 31: Pluralism and relativism (JL)

Isaiah Berlin, "The Pursuit of the Ideal," in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity*.

Ruth Benedict, "Anthropology and the Abnormal," *Journal of General Psychology*, 10 (1934)

James Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism," *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chapter 3.

Michael Ignatieff, "The Attack on Human Rights," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2001, online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20011101faessay5777/michael-ignatieff/the-attack-on-human-rights.html>

Donald E. Brown's List of Human Universals, at <http://www.robotwisdom.comai/universals.html>

Judith Lichtenberg, "Moral Certainty," *Philosophy* 69 (1994).

10. November 7: The environment, again: critique (JL)

Mark Sagoff, *Price, Principle, and the Environment*, chapter 2.

Michael Pollan, "The Feedlot: Making Meat," in *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

Part III: Institutions

11. November 14: Democracy and social choice (KS)

Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*, chapters 1-7, 10 (pp. 1-196, 233-53), but skip sections 4F, G, and H of chapter 4, and only skim chapters 6 and 7.

12. November 21: Democracy and deliberation (JL)

Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson, *Why Deliberative Democracy?*, pp. 3-8.

Lynn M. Sanders, "Against Deliberation," *Political Theory* 25 (1997), pp. 347-76 (find through Research Port at UM Library website).

Mark Sagoff, "The View From Quincy Library or Civic Engagement in Environmental Problem Solving," in *Price, Principle, and the Environment*, pp. 201-31.

Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" and David Miller, "Deliberative Democracy and Social Choice" in David Estlund, ed., *Democracy*.

13. November 28: Politics, principle, and law (KS)

Steven Kelman, "Why Public Ideas Matter," and Giandomenico Majone, "Policy Analysis and Public Administration," both in R. Reich, ed., *The Power of Public Ideas*, pp. 31-54, 157-178.

Lon Fuller, "Human Interaction and the Law," in *The Principles of Social Order*.

Roger Fisher and William Ury, *Getting to Yes*, chapter 1.

14 and 15. December 5, 12: Student Presentations

